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sponsive as M. Lévy would have us believe (pp. 447, 465); there was a very widespread use of asset currency based upon commercial paper in the United States prior to 1863, although M. Lévy says there is no trace of such a thing in the organization of American banks up to the present time (p. 453); two and one-quarter per cent is not the rate of interest which banks must pay on deposits of postal savings bank funds, but the minimum established by law (p. 467). The rate paid from the beginning has been two and one-half per cent. The Second Bank of the United States was not established in 1815, nor was it ended by suspending payments in 1837 (p. 521); the total issues of greenbacks were 450 million, not 400 million (p. 522); greenbacks were not made legally convertible in 1875 and actually so before that date (p. 523); the act of 1900 does not declare the standard of value to be a dollar of 29.8 grains of gold .900 fine (p. 526) but a dollar of 25.8 grains; national bank notes to-day do not constitute nearly half the total circulation (p. 545) but more nearly one-fifth.

Despite such inaccuracies, the general impression given by the numerous descriptive and critical chapters is sound, and the book will prove a very useful book of reference upon a phase of modern banking which is of great, although of relatively declining, importance.

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Mercier, Charles. *Crime and Insanity.* Pp. 255. Price, 75 cents. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1911.

Dr. Mercier, who has written numerous books on insanity and criminal responsibility, has attempted in this little book to discuss briefly the relation between crime and insanity. He discusses the main forms of insanity which he thinks lead to crime, drunkenness, feeble-mindedness, epilepsy, paranoia, general paralysis of the insane, melancholia. In treating these kinds of insanity he gives a good many concrete illustrations of how insanity causes crime. So far the book bears upon the subject and is of more or less value.

But the author also tries to work out a classification of crimes to which he devotes six chapters comprising more than half the book. This part of the book has very little to do with insanity and the classification of crimes which he evolves is very cumbersome and could be criticised in various other ways. In the last chapter he recommends that the question of whether or not insanity has influenced conduct in criminal cases should be decided by the jury which is rather strange inasmuch as the tendency of enlightened opinion to-day is in favor of putting these questions in the hands of impartial experts. Throughout the book there is a great deal of bad psychology. This is illustrated by the loose way in which he uses the word "instinct." For example, he defines what he calls "the social instinct" as being "the inherent repugnance to injure others in order to gain advantage to ourselves. It is the honesty that is preserved by an inherent repugnance to act dishonestly; the desire to avoid injuring others in mind, body or estate; the sympathy that is paid by injury done to others; the instinctive aversion to any act that is injurious to the social fabric" (p. 235). It will be observed that most of the principal psychological phenomena are confused in this definition.

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